

REMARKS

Double Patenting

Claims 1-9 and 15-17 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 and 12-31 of copending Application No. 10/917,881. According to the Examiner, although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because it is obvious to eliminate components and their corresponding functions. The Examiner further states that the instant claims recite substantially the same subject matter.

In response to this rejection the Applicants enclose an executed Terminal Disclaimer to obviate a provisional double patenting rejection over pending application U.S.S.N. 10/917,881, filed August 3, 2004. The necessary fee is enclosed.

Claims 1-9 and 15-17 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 6-11 and 22 of copending Application No. 10/918,104. According to the Examiner, although the conflicting claims are not identical, use of the process recited in 10/918,104 would render the instant claims obvious.

In response to this rejection the Applicants enclose an executed Terminal Disclaimer to obviate a provisional double patenting rejection over pending application U.S.S.N. 10/918,104, filed August 3, 2004. The necessary fee is enclosed. If the Examiner determines that there are additional fees due he is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 501-908.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and enclosed Terminal Disclaimers, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection. Moreover, Applicants maintain that in view of these remarks, the subject application is in condition for allowance. Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the indicated number in the interest of expediting prosecution of the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,

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